

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for controlling an audio conference,  
comprising:  
establishing an audio conference between a plurality  
5 of devices;  
determining that audio content of media from a  
particular device is undesirable; and  
disabling the media from the particular device to  
terminate communication of the media from the particular  
10 device to the other devices in the audio conference.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the media from  
the particular device comprises audio generated as a  
result of the particular device placing on hold a call  
15 associated with the audio conference.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the particular  
device comprises a private branch exchange servicing a  
phone used by a conference participant, the private  
20 branch exchange operable to communicate audio when the  
conference participant places on hold a call associated  
with the audio conference.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the audio  
25 conference comprises a meet-me conference and further  
comprising mixing media from the devices using a  
conference bridge.

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5. The method of Claim 1, wherein establishing an audio conference comprises:

receiving media from the devices;  
mixing media from the devices to generate a  
5 plurality of mixed signals;  
communicating mixed signals to the devices.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining comprises:

10 communicating a plurality of selectively mixed signals to a conference administrator device for monitoring, each selectively mixed signal excluding media from at least one of the devices; and

receiving a command from the conference  
15 administrator device to disable media from the particular device.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the command comprises an inband dual tone multifrequency signal, a  
20 spoken command, or an out-of-band signal from an administrative link.

8. The method of Claim 6, wherein the selectively mixed signals exclude media from devices having the  
25 highest average power measurement.

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9. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining comprises:

communicating a plurality of single source signals to a conference administrator device for monitoring, each  
5 single source signal generated by one of the devices; and  
receiving a command from the conference administrator device to disable media from the particular device.

10 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the single source signals comprise media from devices having the highest average power measurement.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining  
15 comprises identifying power characteristics of media associated with the particular device as indicating a recorded audio segment or broadcast radio.

12. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
20 communicating a recorded prompt to the particular device, the recorded prompt inviting the particular device to rejoin the audio conference; and  
receiving a command to rejoin the audio conference from the particular device.

25 13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the command comprises an inband dual tone multifrequency signal, a spoken command, or an out-of-band signal from an administrative link.

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14. The method of Claim 1, further comprising enabling media from the particular device to resume communication of media from the particular device to the other devices in the audio conference.

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15. A conference bridge, comprising:

a plurality of ports to communicate media with a plurality of devices in an audio conference; and

a media controller operable to determine that audio  
5 content of media from a particular device is undesirable,  
the media controller further operable to disable media  
from the particular device to terminate communication of  
the media from the particular device to the other devices  
in the audio conference.

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16. The conference bridge of Claim 15, further comprising a media processor operable to:

receive media from the devices;

15 mix media from the devices to generate a plurality  
of mixed signals; and

communicate mixed signals to the devices.

17. The conference bridge of Claim 15, further comprising a gateway coupled to a selected device in the  
20 audio conference using a circuit-switched network, the  
gateway operable to communicate media between the  
conference bridge and the circuit-switched network.

18. The conference bridge of Claim 15, wherein:  
25 the ports comprise virtual ports; and  
the media comprises packets of audio information.

19. The conference bridge of Claim 15, wherein the  
media from the particular device comprises audio  
30 generated as a result of the particular device placing on  
hold a call associated with the audio conference.

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20. The conference bridge of Claim 15, wherein the particular device comprises a private branch exchange servicing a phone used by a conference participant, the private branch exchange operable to communicate audio  
5 when the conference participant places on hold a call associated with the audio conference.

21. The conference bridge of Claim 15, wherein:  
the conference bridge communicates a recorded prompt  
10 to the particular device, the recorded prompt inviting the particular device to rejoin the audio conference; and  
the media controller receives a command to rejoin the audio conference from the particular device.

163 22. The conference bridge of Claim 15, further comprising a memory operable to store a plurality of conference entries, each conference entry identifying the devices in the audio conference, a power measurement for each device, and a disable status of each device  
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20 indicating whether media from the device is disabled.

23. The conference bridge of Claim 15, further comprising enabling media from the particular device to resume communication of media from the particular device  
25 to the other devices in the audio conference.

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24. Conference control software embodied in computer readable media and operable to:

establish an audio conference between a plurality of devices;

5 determine that audio content of media from a particular device is undesirable; and

disable the media from the particular device to terminate communication of the media from the particular device to the other devices in the audio conference.

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25. The conference control software of Claim 24, wherein the media from the particular device comprises audio generated as a result of the particular device placing on hold a call associated with the audio conference.

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26. The conference control software of Claim 24, wherein the particular device comprises a private branch exchange servicing a phone used by a conference participant, the private branch exchange operable to communicate audio when the conference participant places on hold a call associated with the audio conference.

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27. The conference control software of Claim 24, wherein the audio conference comprises a meet-me conference and further comprising mixing media from the devices using a conference bridge.

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28. The conference control software of Claim 24,  
wherein establishing an audio conference comprises:

receiving media from the devices;  
mixing media from the devices to generate a  
5 plurality of mixed signals;  
communicating mixed signals to the devices.

29. The conference control software of Claim 24,  
wherein determining comprises:

10 communicating a plurality of selectively mixed  
signals to a conference administrator device for  
monitoring, each selectively mixed signal excluding media  
from at least one of the devices; and

receiving a command from the conference  
15 administrator device to disable media from the particular  
device.

30. The conference control software of Claim 29,  
wherein the command comprises an inband dual tone  
20 multifrequency signal, a spoken command, or an out-of-  
band signal from an administrative link.

31. The conference control software of Claim 29,  
wherein the selectively mixed signals exclude media from  
25 devices having the highest average power measurement.

32. The conference control software of Claim 24,  
wherein determining comprises:

communicating a plurality of single source signals  
30 to a conference administrator device for monitoring, each  
single source signal generated by one of the devices; and

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receiving a command from the conference administrator device to disable media from the particular device.

5           33. The conference control software of Claim 32,  
wherein the single source signals comprise media from devices having the highest average power measurement.

10           34. The conference control software of Claim 24,  
wherein determining comprises identifying power characteristics of media associated with the particular device as indicating a recorded audio segment or broadcast radio.

15           35. The conference control software of Claim 24,  
further comprising:

communicating a recorded prompt to the particular device, the recorded prompt inviting the particular device to rejoin the audio conference; and

20           receiving a command to rejoin the audio conference from the particular device.

25           36. The conference control software of Claim 24,  
further comprising enabling media from the particular device to resume communication of media from the particular device to the other devices in the audio conference.

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37. A conference bridge, comprising:

means for establishing an audio conference between a plurality of devices;

5 means for determining that audio content of media from a particular device is undesirable; and

means for disabling the media from the particular device to terminate communication of the media from the particular device to the other devices in the audio conference.

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38. The conference bridge of Claim 37, wherein the particular device comprises a private branch exchange servicing a phone used by a conference participant, the private branch exchange operable to communicate audio  
15 when the conference participant places on hold a call associated with the audio conference.

39. The conference bridge of Claim 37, wherein the means for establishing an audio conference comprises:

20 means for receiving media from the devices;

means for mixing media from the devices to generate a plurality of mixed signals;

means for communicating mixed signals to the devices.

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40. The conference bridge of Claim 37, wherein means for determining comprises:

means for communicating a plurality of selectively mixed signals to a conference administrator device for  
5 monitoring, each selectively mixed signal excluding media from at least one of the devices; and

means for receiving a command from the conference administrator device to disable media from the particular device.

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41. The conference bridge of Claim 37, further comprising:

communicating a recorded prompt to the particular device, the recorded prompt inviting the particular  
15 device to rejoin the audio conference; and

receiving a command to rejoin the audio conference from the particular device.

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communicating media to a remote location;  
receiving mixed signals from the remote location,  
the mixed signals comprising media from a plurality of  
devices in an audio conference;

43. The method of Claim 42, wherein terminating participation comprises:

44.) The method of Claim 42, wherein the step of communicating audio is performed by a private branch exchange servicing a phone used by a conference participant.

45. The method of Claim 42, wherein the audio  
25 conference comprises a meet-me conference.

46. A method for remotely managing an audio conference through control of a conference bridge, comprising:

5 participating in an audio conference established by a conference bridge;

monitoring media from a plurality of devices in the audio conference to identify audio content from a particular device that is undesirable; and

10 communicating a command to the conference bridge to terminate communication of the media from the particular device to the other devices in the audio conference.

47. The method of Claim 46, wherein the command comprises an inband dual tone multifrequency signal, a spoken command, or an out-of-band signal communicated using an administrative link.

20 48. The method of Claim 46, wherein the particular device comprises a private branch exchange servicing a phone used by a conference participant, the private branch exchange operable to communicate audio when the conference participant places on hold a call associated with the audio conference.

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49. The method of Claim 46, wherein monitoring comprises:

receiving a plurality of selectively mixed signals, each mixed signal excluding media from at least one of the devices;

outputting the selectively mixed signals to a conference administrator; and

receiving a selection of a desired mixed signal from the conference administrator, the desired mixed signal excluding media from the particular device.

50. The method of Claim 49, wherein the selectively mixed signals exclude media from devices having the highest average power measurement.

51. The method of Claim 46, wherein monitoring comprises:

receiving a plurality of single source signals, each single source signal generated by one of the devices;

outputting the single source signals to a conference administrator; and

receiving a selection of an offending single source signal from the conference administrator, the offending single source signal comprises media from the particular device.

52. The method of Claim 51, wherein the single source signals comprise media from devices having the highest average power measurement.

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